

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

California Agricultural Resource Directory 2007

Our Partners in Protecting California

COUNTY AGRICULTURAL
COMMISSIONERS & SEALERS

Local Pesticide Regulators

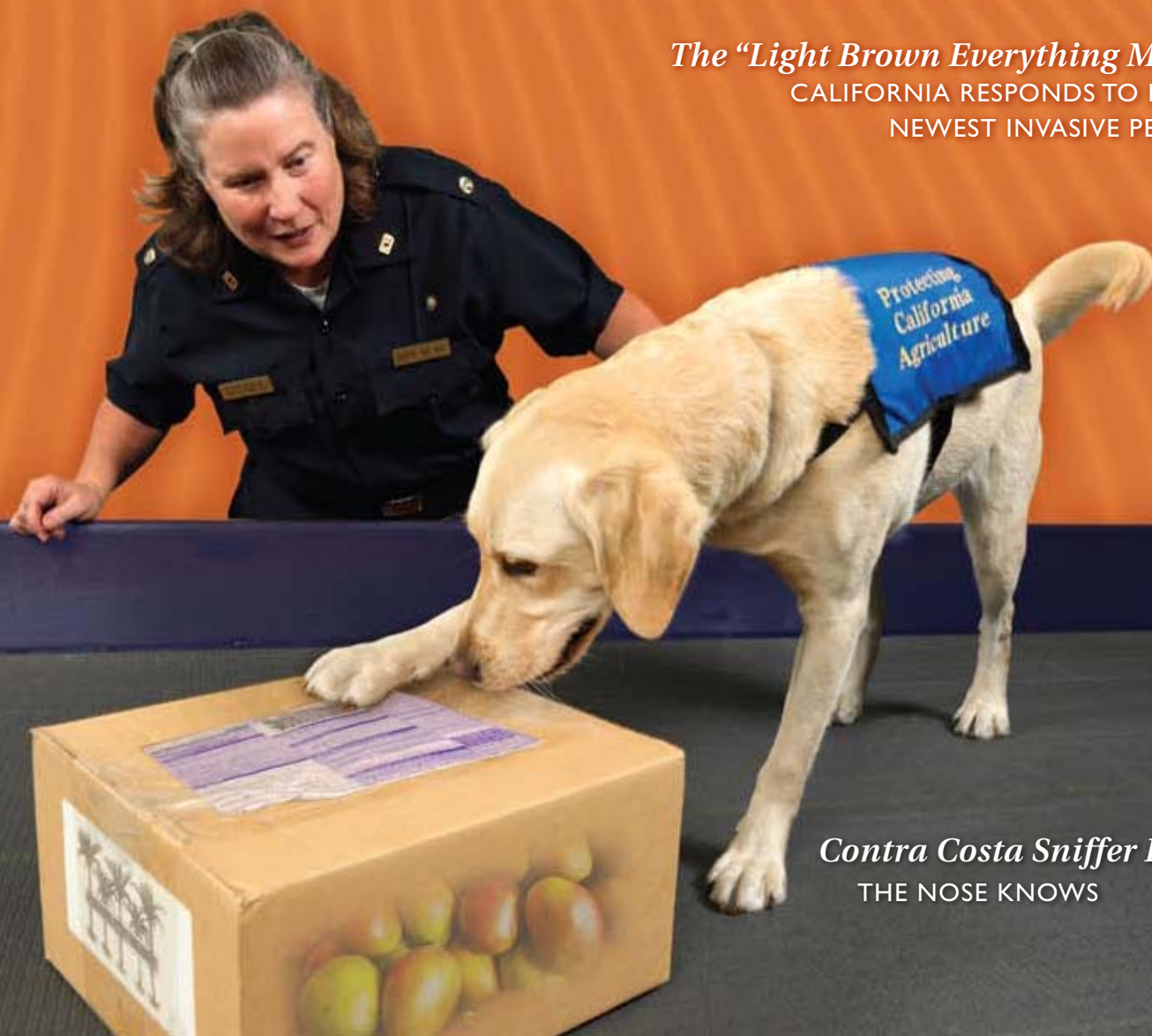
MAKING THE SYSTEM WORK

Ensuring Consumers Get What They Pay For

MEASURING CALIFORNIA

The "Light Brown Everything Moth"

CALIFORNIA RESPONDS TO ITS
NEWEST INVASIVE PEST



Contra Costa Sniffer Dogs
THE NOSE KNOWS

The Nose Knows

by Adrian Woodfork

On any given morning, Bella, the golden lab can be found nosing around Contra Costa County. Be it on a conveyor belt at FedEx in Concord or plowing through a pile of boxes at UPS in Richmond, Bella is always up for the task. Her job requires putting her best foot (nose) forward to sniff out packages sent through the mail containing fruits, vegetables and plant materials coming into California without labels identifying the contents. She will work tirelessly for four to five hours, motivated entirely by her love for dog biscuits and a willingness to please.

Bella and inspector Cecilie Siegel make up one of three dog-detector-teams located in Contra Costa and San Bernardino counties. In the short period that Bella has worked in this three-year pilot program, she has alerted her handler to dozens of boxes of contraband that could play host to invasive pests that threaten California's \$31.4 billion agricultural industry.

Started by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the detector-dog program took root at the Los Angeles International Airport in 1984. Now, more than 65 dog teams are working throughout the country at 21 airports and delivery services. Although Bella is specifically trained to sniff out plants and produce, many other canines are used for drugs, explosives, meat and live-animal detection. These dogs go through extensive training for eight to 10 weeks in Orlando, Florida, to develop their instincts to seek out and expose illegal cargo.

Bella's personality makes her a perfect fit for the job. The No. 1 desirable trait for a sniff dog is to have a strong food drive, followed closely by a desire to please. The combination of love for food and trainer is a formula for success in the dog-training business. Although Bella is well loved and cared for, she does not live in the home of her trainer. In Bella's case, she is kept in a secure and temperature-controlled kennel in



Courtesy of Contra Costa County

her trainer's backyard, where she is fed a special diet of premium dog food; never human food. In caring for detector dogs, it is important to limit their exposure to various odors commonly found inside homes. This is purposely done so the dog does not become desensitized to odors and aromas that they are trained to alert to, such as plants and produce.

For five years, the California Department of Food and Agriculture used dog teams at airports, post offices and mail services throughout the state. In 2001, due to financial limitations, the program was dropped. However, there was never any doubt about the important role these dogs played in California's battle to keep invasive pests at bay. Bella could be an influential spark to re-ignite a great idea. With continued success of the federally funded program in Contra Costa and San Bernardino counties, it will hopefully be possible for additional detector dog teams in California.

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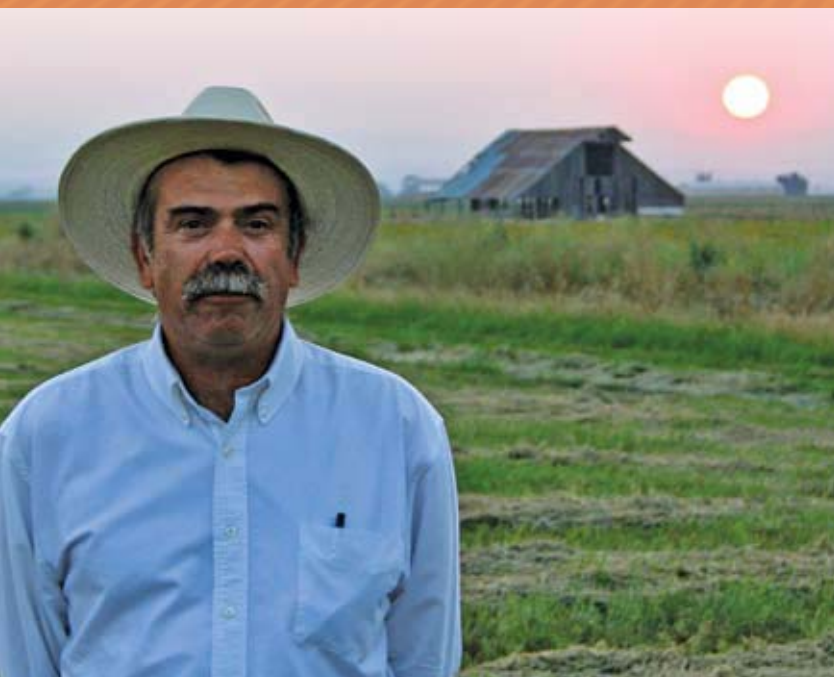


Photo by Ed Williams / Yolo County

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ITS NEWEST INVASIVE PEST

LETTER BY

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger

FOREWORD BY

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California Department of Food and Agriculture

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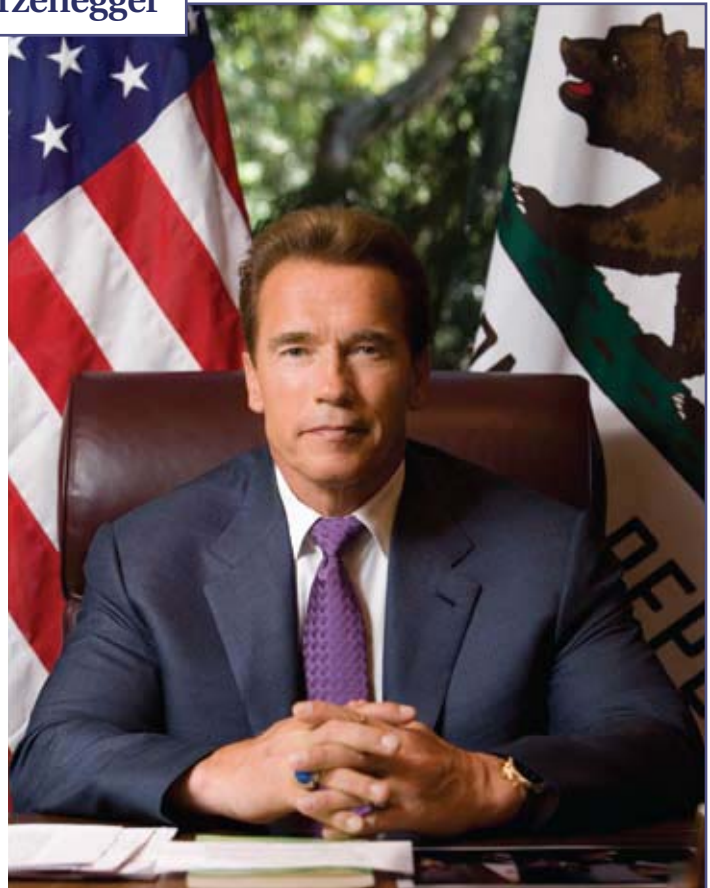
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A Letter from Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger

Dear Friends,

California has built its economic success on the foundation of our vibrant agricultural industry. Our fertile lands have been cultivated by hard-working families and individuals, carving out farms and ranches in the landscape and producing renowned commodities for the world to enjoy. These pioneers' knowledge and dedicated labor helped to create one of the most recognized agricultural industries on the planet. And with the advent of the California Department of Food and Agriculture, the quality of our state's in-demand food supply has become a shining legacy.

To maintain our reputation for incomparable food products, the Department of Food and Agriculture, Department of Pesticide Regulation and other state and federal resources are working hard to meet today's industry challenges with dynamic solutions. This year's California Agricultural Resource Directory outlines the industry's impressive output and describes how the cooperative strategies of highly-trained agency professionals have yielded great successes to protect our agricultural products.



My administration is committed to ensuring that our agricultural industry remains economically strong, and I am looking forward to seeing our industry promote environmentally-sound practices. The agricultural sector, its professionals and our government are working hard to ensure a bright future, and I encourage you to use this directory to learn more about the strategies and policies that are contributing to our agriculture's success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature of Arnold Schwarzenegger in black ink, written in a cursive style.

Arnold Schwarzenegger



BY A.G. KAWAMURA, SECRETARY
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

MARY-ANN WARMERDAM, DIRECTOR
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PESTICIDE REGULATION

Californians want their government to act efficiently, effectively and cooperatively—in other words, they want government to act smart. That's why it is so critical that state and local governments work together to craft practical and workable solutions to the challenges that face our state. This year's *California Agricultural Resource Directory* highlights key areas where such cooperation is paying huge dividends for our economy, our health and our environment.

The partnership between county agricultural commissioners and state agencies is an excellent example of what can be achieved when different levels of government focus on the big issues of importance to producers and consumers. With the state being threatened constantly with invasive pests that could wreak havoc on our food supply, the economy and environment, it is crucial that pesticides employed to combat these invaders are used safely. Californians should therefore be heartened to know that the state has the largest and best-trained pesticide enforcement organization in the country

with more than 400 inspector biologists from county commissioner offices overseeing local enforcement under state Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) supervision.

California's counties are also working cooperatively with the federal government to pilot innovative programs to stop invasive pests from entering our state. One of the most promising programs uses dog-detector teams to sniff out potential pest-infested contraband that could decimate our natural resources and our economy. You'll read about Bella the golden Labrador retriever who works in Contra Costa County and who has successfully detected dozens of unmarked boxes and packages carrying fruits, vegetables and plant materials that could play host to exotic pests and diseases.

During the citrus freeze in January 2007, knowledgeable county biologists prevented damaged fruit from reaching consumers, allowed good fruit to move, and provided critical data on crop damages to state and federal agencies to assist with recovery efforts.

Consumers also benefit from the partnership between the California Department of Food and Agriculture's Division of Measurement Standards and county sealers of weights and measures. When someone buys a product that is scanned at the checkout counter at the local grocery store or fills up his or her car at the gasoline pump, county and state professionals work cooperatively to ensure that people "get what they pay for."

California's sheer size and varied growing areas requires a coordinated partnership between state and local agencies to protect our millions of consumers, our sensitive and beautiful environment, and our complex economy. While it is all too often assumed that different levels of government don't cooperate, CDFA, DPR and its local government partners demonstrate day in and day out that cooperation is not only a reality, but, more important, it works.

COUNTY AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONERS & SEALERS:

Our Partners in Protecting California

ALTHOUGH THE WORK OF AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONERS/SEALERS
IS MOSTLY BEHIND THE SCENES, THE OUTCOME OF THEIR WORK
AFFECTS THE LIVES OF EVERY CALIFORNIAN, EVERY DAY.

by Jonnalee Henderson



Photo by Ed Williams / Yolo County

125 YEARS

Partnership to Protect California

A parking meter charging 25 cents for 15 minutes, a half cord of firewood sold at the local bait and tackle shop for \$60, and gasoline that costs \$3.23 a gallon: In each of these situations, as a consumer, how do you know that you are getting your money's worth? Since most people don't carry scales, measuring tapes and meter readers, to whom do we trust to carry out this responsibility?

Enter your county agricultural commissioner and sealer of weights and measures. Anytime something is sold based on count, measure or weight, the agricultural commissioner/sealer's office, in partnership with the California Department of Food and Agriculture, ensures this exchange is based on accurate devices. This means state and local entities work together to check all scales, pumps, scanners and meters to protect consumers, producers, wholesalers and retailers.

This is but one of many hats that an agricultural commissioner/sealer wears. They also serve as the local pesticide-use enforcers, pest detectors, fruit and vegetable inspectors, seed and nursery inspectors, quarantine enforcers and farmers' market certifiers. If that is not enough, some have mosquito abatement, animal control and air pollution

control duties as well. Although the work of our 55 agricultural commissioner/sealers and their 1,900 professionally licensed staff is mostly behind the scenes, the outcome of their work affects the lives of every Californian, every day.

"We do it because it is something that gets in our blood. Every day you go home, you get a great deal of satisfaction knowing that you are doing a job that protects people, agriculture and the environment," says Earl McPhail, Ventura County's agricultural commissioner since 1978.

With 2006 marking their 125th-year anniversary, agricultural commissioners/sealers are as etched into California's history as the land and culture itself. In 1881, the same year Billy the Kid was marauding through the Midwest and Thomas Edison and Alexander Graham Bell formed the Oriental Telephone Company, the first California state convention of horticulturists began. The participants at that convention resolved that every county would appoint a horticultural commissioner to protect and promote the agricultural interests of California.

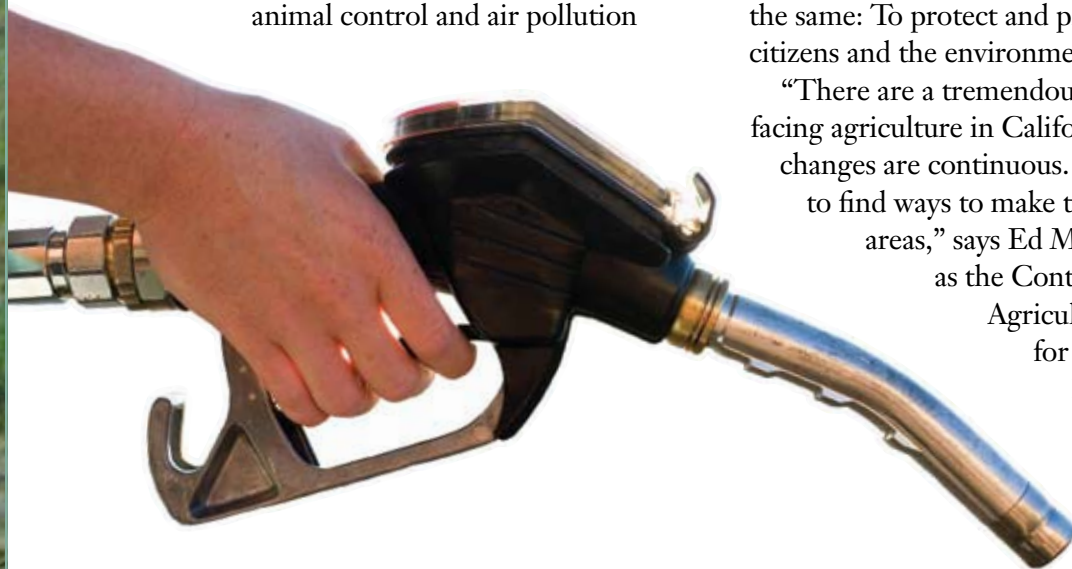
Over the years the name has changed to agricultural commissioner and the scope of duties has expanded, but the mission has remained the same: To protect and promote agriculture, citizens and the environment.

"There are a tremendous number of issues facing agriculture in California and regulatory changes are continuous. Our challenge is to find ways to make them work for our

areas," says Ed Meyer, who has served as the Contra Costa County

Agricultural Commissioner for 11 years, and is a

34-year veteran of the county department of agriculture.





Discussing various aspects of the Solano County Medfly project are (left to right): James Shattuck, DPR's County/State Liaison; Anthony Jackson, USDA-APHIS Domestic Program Coordinator; Jerry Howard, Solano County Commissioner/Sealer; and Kevin Masuhara, CDFA's County/State Liaison.

Protecting through Partnerships

With their depth of knowledge and ties to the local community, county agricultural commissioners are a critical thread in the fabric of agriculture. Frank Carl says that a successful commissioner builds a network of communication and develops the relationships necessary to deal with problems before they happen. Carl has served as commissioner for Sacramento County for the past 17 years and has worked in agriculture with various counties for 34 years.

These local connections include working relationships with health inspectors, vector agencies, planning departments and boards of supervisors. They also keep open lines of communication with the California Department of Food and Agriculture and California Department of Pesticide Regulation.

"Because commissioners are locally based and are usually long-term residents of their area, they have a real depth of knowledge about the issues in their counties," explains Kevin

Masuhara, California Department of Food and Agriculture's liaison with the agricultural commissioners/sealers. "Having worked in agriculture all my life, it's nice to work around government officials who are committed to doing a good job that benefits agriculture."

Masuhara explains that during the 2006 citrus freeze, the county commissioner staff conducted all of the fruit inspections and distributed critical data regarding fruit damage to state departments. Since they knew where the packing sheds were and had longstanding relationships with the growers, these commissioners helped ensure that freeze-damaged products did not enter the marketplace.

"Through the commissioner/sealer partnership with state agencies, we have a shared responsibility and are working together to solve many of the same issues. The bottom line is that we want the state to have a healthy, robust agriculture and environment that is good for the economy and good for our citizens," says Masuhara.



Courtesy of Los Angeles County

Protecting Agriculture and the Environment

Through their critical partnership with the Department of Pesticide Regulation, commissioners/sealers serve as the pesticide-use regulators, ensuring that commercial pesticide users are certified and that pesticide products are used safely.

“The dread of every agricultural commissioner is an outbreak of a serious pest in their county. This can devastate the local economy and environment,” says Carl. “It’s a challenge when you have to do a general spray treatment in order to protect the county, and you’re dealing with urban residents who don’t understand the benefit of these pest measures.”



Carl explained that ever since he has been a commissioner there has always been at least one major pest to deal with. “When I first started there was Dutch elm disease and then the gypsy moths. More recently there have been guava fruit flies, oriental fruit flies, glassy winged sharpshooters and Asian long-horned borers.”

McPhail recalls a time in 1994 when his staff prevented a potentially devastating outbreak of the Mediterranean fruit fly, one of the world’s most destructive fruit flies. Due to the hunch of one staff member, they left a trap out two weeks later than normal. This caught some of the first fruit flies to enter the county, initiating an immediate eradication effort that quickly eliminated all the flies before they became a serious infestation.

“This kind of stuff happens every day,” says McPhail. “When you do your job well and think out of the box, it’s surprising what kind of results you can have.”

Talk to any commissioner/sealer and they will tell you the same thing—California has the most extensive and effective agricultural commissioner/sealer structure in the nation. For this reason, other parts of the country look to California for guidance in implementing similar systems in their states.

“California has the largest and best-trained pesticide enforcement organization in the country,” says James Shattuck, the Department of Pesticide Regulation’s liaison with the county agricultural commissioners. “More

Your County Connection to Agriculture ...

than 400 inspector biologists from agricultural commissioner offices in all 58 counties oversee local enforcement under the department's supervision. No other state has this kind of strong enforcement in the field."

A Career as an Ag Commissioner/Sealer

Some start as pest control advisers, others as biologists or farmers, but all commissioners have a few things in common—they enjoy working with growers, they are proud to make a difference in their local areas, and they strive to recruit motivated, bright individuals into their line of work. They often recruit through pest detection programs and by visiting agricultural colleges, high schools, FFA field days and other agricultural promotional events.

"For most of us, it's not just another job, it's something we grow into," says Carl. "Our staffs are dedicated, and they are interested in agriculture. They are making a difference, and they go the extra mile to do it well."



ACTIVITIES OF THE CALIFORNIA COMMISSIONERS & SEALERS

Even if you don't produce commercial crops or apply pesticides for a living, your county agricultural commissioners and sealers work hard for you. Their job is to protect people, the environment and our food supply. In the process, they carry out a wide range of activities — everything from protecting farm workers to consumers and from regulating pesticide use to inspecting crops for quality. Here is a snapshot of typical activities in the life of a commissioner/sealer ...

PEST EXCLUSION provides the first line of defense for California agriculture. Inspections help to protect against insect and disease pests that may be introduced by movement of plants and other items through normal trade channels. This program also involves inspections of plant material shipped to other states and countries and the issuance of certificates documenting compliance with their entry requirements.

PEST DETECTION is the second line of defense against exotic pests through the early detection of new introductions before they become widely established. Traps are placed in primarily urban areas to detect such insect pests as Mediterranean and Mexican fruit flies, gypsy moth, Japanese beetle and a host of other pests. Through early detection, the likelihood of these pests becoming established is lessened and the cost and environmental impact of eradication is minimized.

PEST ERADICATION programs are conducted following the discovery of an introduced pest. Often these projects are partially or completely under the jurisdiction of the California Department of Food and Agriculture. However, the county agricultural commissioner is regularly involved as the liaison to local government.

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PEST MANAGEMENT involves managing nuisance pests of agriculture and human health. Many of these pests are recently introduced species that became established despite the best efforts of the commissioners to keep them out. Commissioners also conduct programs

to establish and distribute biological controls for troublesome pests.

PESTICIDE USE ENFORCEMENT is a complex program that covers far more than its name implies. This program was developed to provide for the proper, safe and efficient use of pesticides essential for production of food and fiber and for protection of public health and safety. It also protects the environment from potentially harmful pesticides by prohibiting, regulating or ensuring proper stewardship. An important focus of the program is agricultural and pest control workers to ensure safe working conditions, proper use of protective equipment and training for employees who work with or around pesticides.

SEED CERTIFICATION involves inspections at retail and wholesale businesses where seeds are sold. Samples are drawn for germination and purity testing. Labels are inspected for compliance with state requirements.

NURSERY INSPECTION entails checking the growing, propagation, production and sale of nursery stock to assure cleanliness from pests, true variety and vigorous-healthy plants for sale to the consumer.

FRUITS, NUTS AND VEGETABLE STANDARDIZATION ensures compliance with California's minimum standards regarding quality and marketing of all produce commercially grown or marketed in the

state. Direct marketing regulation and organic law enforcement also provide for local protection to growers, marketers and consumers.

EGG INSPECTION provides for inspection of egg retailers and packers to enforce state and federal health, quality and grade standards.

APIARY INSPECTION emphasizes the registration and site location of honeybee colonies.

CROP STATISTICS are compiled and recorded in the annual county crop report, which details gross production and value of local commodities.

"THAT EQUITY MAY PREVAIL" COUNTY SEALERS OF WEIGHTS & MEASURES



Under the general direction of California Department of Food and Agriculture and in cooperation with various federal, state and local jurisdictions, the county sealer inspects, tests and certifies the accuracy of numerous devices, functions and activities associated with commerce.

COMMERCIAL DEVICES are those used in channels of trade to determine a value based on weight, measure or count. County sealers test the performance of commercial devices using standards that are traceable to world standards in order to maintain uniformity.

QUANTITY CONTROL ensures that packaged goods have the proper weight, measure, or count.

PETROLEUM PRODUCTS and related advertising and labeling regulations are strictly enforced to provide product identity and information to the seller and buyer.

Making the System Work

by Mary-Ann Warmerdam

Director, Department of Pesticide Regulation

The size and diversity of California agriculture poses a major challenge for effective pesticide regulation. From the cool forests on the North Coast, to thousands of acres of trees and vines in the Central Valley, to urban nurseries that produce an array of landscape plants, pest management must be conducted safely and effectively.

Against this daunting backdrop, our system is recognized as the best in the nation. To understand why it works so well, look at the unique relationship between the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) and our county agricultural commissioners.

As DPR's partners, ag commissioners are the local enforcement agents for pesticide laws and regulations. They hold various enforcement options: revoking or suspending the right of a pest control company to do business in a county, prohibiting harvest of a crop that contains illegal residues, and issuing civil and criminal penalties.

Equally important are their proactive efforts to promote compliance with pesticide law through presentations to community and industry groups, training sessions for pesticide users, informal or formal compliance actions (such as warning letters), and corrective interviews.

Farmers must obtain site-specific permits from their commissioner to buy or use many agricultural chemicals. The commissioner evaluates the proposed use to determine if the pesticide can be used safely, particularly in sensitive areas, such as wetlands, residential neighborhoods, schools, or organic fields. State law requires commissioners to ensure that applicators take precautions to meet local needs and public safety.

Based on this evaluation, the commissioner may deny a permit to use a pesticide, or may require specific use practices to reduce any hazards. For example, a permit may be



Courtesy of Napa County

County staff perform pre-application inspection.

contingent upon the method of application, time of day, weather and use of buffer zones. Such local permit conditions carry the force of state law and are strictly enforceable.

When issuing a permit, a commissioner must consider the need for a particular pesticide and whether a safer pesticide or better method of application could be used to prevent misapplication or drift. They also enforce regulations to protect ground and surface water from pesticide contamination. To do this, they may work with regional water boards and the State Water Resources Control Board.

Investigating every reported pesticide injury is another important duty. Commissioner staffers interview victims and employers (when the illness occurred at work) to determine if the law was broken and enforcement action is needed.

Local pesticide enforcement also reaches beyond the farmgate. For example, maintenance gardeners are checked to ensure they are licensed to apply pesticides and that pesticides are labeled for professional landscaping. Home pesticide applications, such as structural fumigations for termites, are also checked to confirm that structural pest control employees have proper training and equipment.

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Measuring California

ENSURING CONSUMERS GET WHAT THEY PAY FOR

by Josh Eddy

Most of us take it on face value that the amount shown at the gas pump correlates to the amount of fuel we purchased, or that the price listed on the supermarket shelf is the price we pay at the checkout. Can you believe someone actually keeps track? From supermarket scales to gas pumps and everything in between, county and state officials work year round to ensure that consumers get what they pay for.

Bringing accuracy to weighing and measuring devices in California and protecting consumers and businesses from unfair marketing practices is the role of the department's Division of Measurement Standards. This work is done in direct partnership with the state's 55 county sealers of weights and measures. Each county has staff that test and evaluate measuring devices and investigate consumer complaints. The seal on every commercial gas pump is a certification of accuracy; that's every pump at every gas station throughout the state!

Kurt Floren, Los Angeles County's Director of Weights and Measures, knows firsthand the vast scope of responsibility that falls upon county staff. Within Los Angeles alone, more than 220,000 weighing and measuring devices are used commercially. It is the county's goal to reach 100 percent annual inspection rate on all

of these devices. "Many dedicated and skilled officials work daily, quietly and with little public recognition to ensure that equity prevails for both consumers and businesses," says Floren. "Our satisfaction is knowing the importance of what we do."

As an example of consumer protection, a statewide survey was conducted in 2006 that evaluated 1,007 stores for price scanner accuracy (the price on the shelf matched the scanned price of the item at checkout). Of the surveyed stores, 83 percent charged the correct amount on all products sampled. This demonstrates that consumers can have confidence while shopping—be it at supermarkets, retail stores or restaurants. For those businesses that did not pass the survey, department and county staff worked with them to gain their compliance.

Weights and measures is a science that affects each of us on a daily basis: From testing and evaluating octane levels in gas to avoid "pinging," to inspecting water meters in private apartment buildings, and to protecting against deceptive or misleading consumer packaging. These are just some of the duties that weights and measures officials fulfill to protect us. It is a field where professionals work in partnership not just at a state level, but also on national and international levels. The division evaluates, tests and approves all commercial weighing and measuring devices used in the state. If foreign suppliers wish to sell such devices within the state, the supplier must meet California's standards, which the division will certify through direct evaluation and testing at the manufacturers location.

California's Division of Measurement Standards is a world-class institution that is playing a vital national role as the future for alternative and renewable fuels grows. Early in 2008, California proposes to establish regulations for hydrogen



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The “Light Brown Everything Moth”

by Jay Van Rein

“This bug gets no respect—it should be called the Light Brown Everything Moth.”

When a scientist tries to tell a joke, it usually lands with a dull “thud.” In this case, the scientist—who will remain nameless to protect the unfunny—was speaking to a group of colleagues gathered for a meeting of the Technical Working Group (TWG), which had been formed to advise the California Department of Food and Agriculture regarding the threat posed by the Light Brown Apple Moth (LBAM). The pest, native to Australia and found fairly sparsely elsewhere around the globe, was discovered for the first time in California’s Bay Area and Central Coast regions in early 2007.

Admittedly, the punch line lacks punch unless, of course, you happen to be a plant. Or you are a gardener, or a farmer, or just someone who is fond of the community’s flora and would like to see it stick around awhile longer.

The “apple” in “Light Brown Apple Moth” makes it a monumental misnomer. Take a look around you. See any plants? If you’re the LBAM, every last leaf on every last green, growing plant around you is probably on the menu. Crops? Yes. Pine trees? Oak trees? Double-yes. Roses, shrubs, granny’s heirloom tomatoes? Affirmative. Jerusalem artichoke and St. John’s Wort, for goodness sake? Those, too. Add ‘em all up and you’re well over a thousand plants threatened by this quarter-inch moth.

For some of these “host plants,” the damage is done directly to the fruit as the moth larvae eat. For most plants, though, the caterpillar eats away at the softest parts—new shoots on branches, young leaves and the like. This stunted growth can result in a less-productive fruit tree, a deformed landscape plant, or a weakened and more disease-prone forest canopy.

Beyond the physical damage to plants, the LBAM generates a series of secondary complications, including trade barriers imposed by nations that refuse our crops and plants in order to avoid infestation; quarantine restrictions imposed on growers, farmers’ markets, packing houses and others involved in agriculture; and increased use of pesticides by property owners who want to protect their yards, gardens and crops. In the worst-case scenario—no eradication, resulting in spread to the rest of the state and beyond—each of these consequences would be broadened and perpetuated.

The responsible response, as concluded by technical experts and public officials alike, is clear: Contain, suppress and eradicate the LBAM infestation before it reaches a point of no return. The viable alternatives are conventional pesticides that would work quickly but have unintended effects on beneficial insects and other elements of the environment; organic-approved pesticides such as Bt (*Bacillus thuringiensis*), which are less problematic for the environment but would take longer to be effective and would threaten some “non-target” insects such as native butterflies and moths; and application of a moth pheromone, which would take a year or more to be effective but would be highly targeted to the LBAM population and benign for other insects, animals, the environment and the public.

“One of the few constants in agriculture is innovation,” says CDEA Secretary A.G. Kawamura. “Years ago, we wouldn’t have had a lot of choices in how to eradicate an infestation like LBAM, but when we sat down and considered the range of options, the list was

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indicative of just how far the field of non-invasive alternatives has advanced. Not one of the leading candidates was a conventional insecticide, and several were approved for use on organic crops.”

The pheromone approach emerged as the preferred alternative based both on science and on good public policy. There were complicating factors—public reaction to aerial treatments and a need to quickly ramp up the supply of the pheromone, for starters—but the consensus among agricultural officials, scientists and growers was resounding: We have an appropriate and effective treatment available, and we must act now, before the infestation spreads beyond our capability to eradicate it.

"When we are confronted by a regional problem like the LBAM infestation, the stakes are enormously high," says Monterey County Agricultural Commissioner Eric Lauritzen. "There is a very real risk that this pest could become permanently established in California if we don't work quickly and cooperatively to contain and eradicate it. Beyond the eradication treatments, we are working with state and federal officials, along with the affected industries, to impose strict quarantines and close off any

pathways the insect might use to spread. Our staff has the critical local knowledge and experience it takes to make that happen quickly. It is through a collaborative effort that we can effectively limit the infestation's spread as we work toward eradication."

Agricultural commissioners like Eric Lauritzen in Monterey County are tapped to help communicate with local leaders about the eradication effort, and they also identify and work with local growers, packing houses and other facilities that must comply with quarantine regulations. Commissioners also provide pesticide use enforcement expertise to ensure that treatments are performed safely and effectively.

Which brings us all back to the Light Brown Everything Moth—and to the realization that somewhere in California today, a teenager with a backpack, or a manager with a briefcase, or a tourist with a satchel is on the way home from a trip abroad, carrying a mango or a flower or some other piece of nature that was just too irresistible to leave behind—but should have been left nonetheless. And again we will turn to the innovators in agriculture for a way to protect the state's crops, environment, habitat and economy.

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fuels, becoming the first state to develop preliminary standards that other states and nations may follow. By being a leader and developing new regulations for hydrogen fuel, the division will help the state meet its environmental goals of reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

So the next time you visit the pump, purchase groceries or wonder if there really is a difference between fuel octane levels—rest assured that there is a small, dedicated group of weights and measures professionals checking the accuracy of everything. The Division of Measurement Standards, in partnership with California's County Agricultural Commissioners and Sealers Association, works hard to protect California's consumers and businesses alike, measuring California and ensuring consumers get what they pay for.

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Since many pesticides are used in non-agricultural settings—sanitizers in municipal water treatment plants, disinfecting chemicals in food service facilities and hospitals—pesticide laws may overlap other areas where workplace safety is involved. So commissioners also work with the state departments of industrial relations and health services, and consult with the California Department of Forestry and its federal counterpart about pesticide use on forestlands.

Anyone with questions or concerns about how pesticides are being used in their area may contact their county agricultural commissioner by looking in the county government section of their phone book's white pages. Or callers may use DPR's toll-free 1-87PestLine (1-877-378-5463) for a quick transfer to their local office.